

# State Representative Sandy Nafis



Dear Friends,

*The 2005 legislative session continues to present a variety of challenging issues vital to our state. As a member of the Higher Education and Employment Advancement Committee and the General Law Committee, I will keep working hard to achieve fair results for our citizens. I am also pleased to have been recently appointed to the Government Administration and Elections Committee, where we will be addressing significant and timely ethical issues.*

*To keep you informed, I have enclosed material on some of the issues that are under consideration this session. As always, I value your input on these issues, as well as any other concerns you may have.*

*It has been a pleasure to serve as your State Representative over the past six years, and I look forward to working with you again during the session. Please do not hesitate to call me if I can be of assistance to you in any way.*

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Sandy".

27th District ♦ Newington

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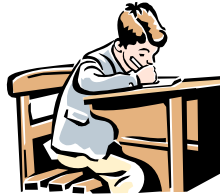
## 2005 Legislative Issues

27th District  
Newington

# 2005 Legislative Issues

## Education Funding

In 2004 the General Assembly abolished the Educational Cost Sharing (ECS) cap and continued appropriating money to phase out its effects. Newington has been impacted by the cap for many years, and we have worked hard to fix this problem so our schools and children could benefit. But, despite the formal abolition of the cap, many towns throughout Connecticut are struggling with similar issues: rising enrollment, greater special education costs and rising local property taxes and a litany of issues caused by the federal No Child Left Behind law. A fairer and better ECS formula that reflects current funding challenges will help address the problem. Additionally, we need to ensure that adequate funds are dedicated to fully fund this formula.



## Budget

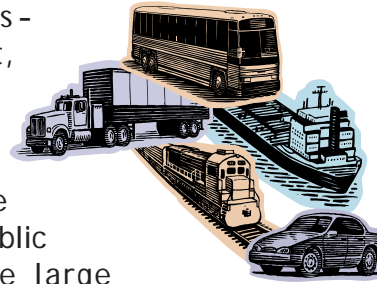
Although the Office of Policy and Management and the Office of Fiscal Analysis are both projecting a surplus for this fiscal year, they are also both forecasting a budget deficit in the next fiscal year. This means that we will need to take a close look at both taxing and spending.

Important decisions will need to be made about the state budget during the coming months — whether to cut funding, increase taxes, contribute money to the rainy day fund or use other methods of providing needed services while balancing the budget. These decisions will affect both taxes and spending as well as the quality and availability of state services in the future. I intend to look closely at every proposal set forth to meet our objectives and to make the best decision possible for the people of my district and the state as a whole. I welcome any comments or suggestions you may have concerning the budget or the various programs and services provided by the state.



## Transportation

The legislature has been studying transportation options in the state for several years now. Everyone recognizes the problems which arise from these transportation issues — less business development, pollution, higher accident rates, longer commutes. The solutions are harder to find. Most of the options, including more public transportation, require large investments of cash which, given our current economic outlook, may be difficult to procure in one lump sum. We need to make a commitment to a long-term plan that can be implemented in stages.



## Energy Costs

With the unrest in the Middle East continuing, forcing the price of oil to rise, we are now paying the highest energy prices in the history of the United States. These prices not only greatly impact every family in the country, they also have a detrimental effect on businesses. All businesses feel the effects of higher energy costs, but transportation services are the hardest hit, as they also have to cope with higher fuel costs. Prices then must increase to cover the rising cost of energy. The consumer is paying higher prices at home and in the marketplace. These increases cut into discretionary spending, affecting the economic outlook of the region and the country. The Northeast has not rebounded economically as well as the rest of the country, and it would be to our benefit to look at energy costs to determine if there is anything the legislature can do to reduce these costs for consumers.

## Medical Malpractice

Dramatically increasing insurance premiums for doctors, particularly for those in high-risk practices, have become a serious problem in Connecticut. This, in turn, is leading to a medical crisis as doctors retire or leave their practices or the state. Unfortunately, finding a solution acceptable to doctors, insurance companies, lawyers and victims is a very sensitive and complicated issue. A bill was introduced and passed during the last session which was vetoed by the Governor because it did not include caps on awards.



Because this issue affects everyone of us in the state, it is a high priority of mine for this session. I will be looking at the positions of each of the interested parties and trying to find a compromise which will protect the victims while keeping health care affordable. I feel this is an issue that will take a great deal of time and study during the legislative session.

## Ethics and Contracting Reform

In the wake of revelations throughout 2004 of ethical lapses — and outright criminal misconduct — in state government, the Legislature must act this year to assure the people of Connecticut that such behavior will not be tolerated. To do this, state watchdog agencies must continue to be empowered, independent voices and state procurement and bidding processes must be clear, transparent and uniform. I believe state residents deserve these and other high standards.

### *Any Questions?*

Call me at (860) 240-8585 or 1-800-842-8267,  
e-mail me at [Sandy.Nafis@cga.ct.gov](mailto:Sandy.Nafis@cga.ct.gov)  
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State Representative  
**Sandy Nafis**